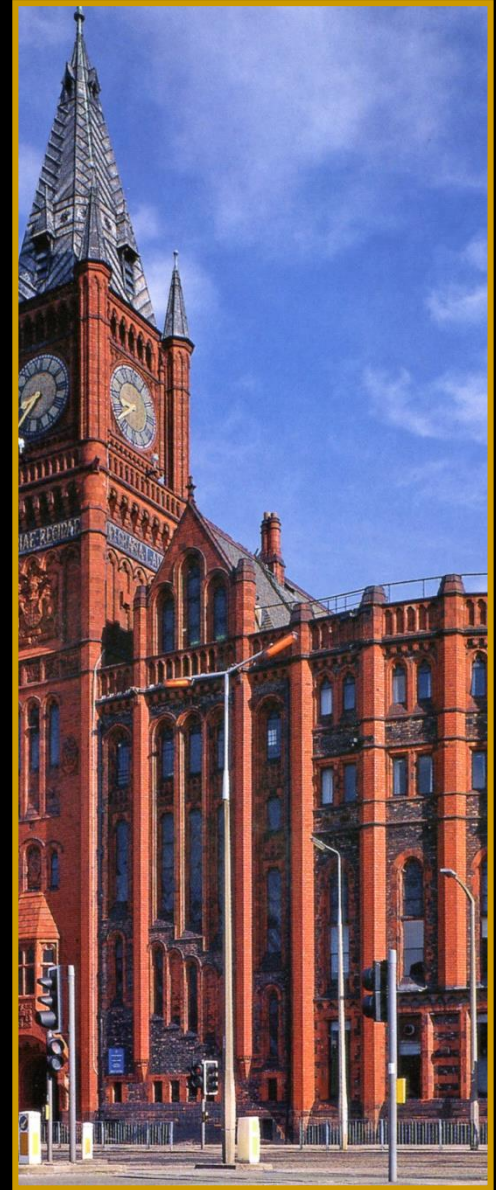


# Arts-based learning for dementia awareness for health care professional students

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# Background – Health Education England



## Mandate

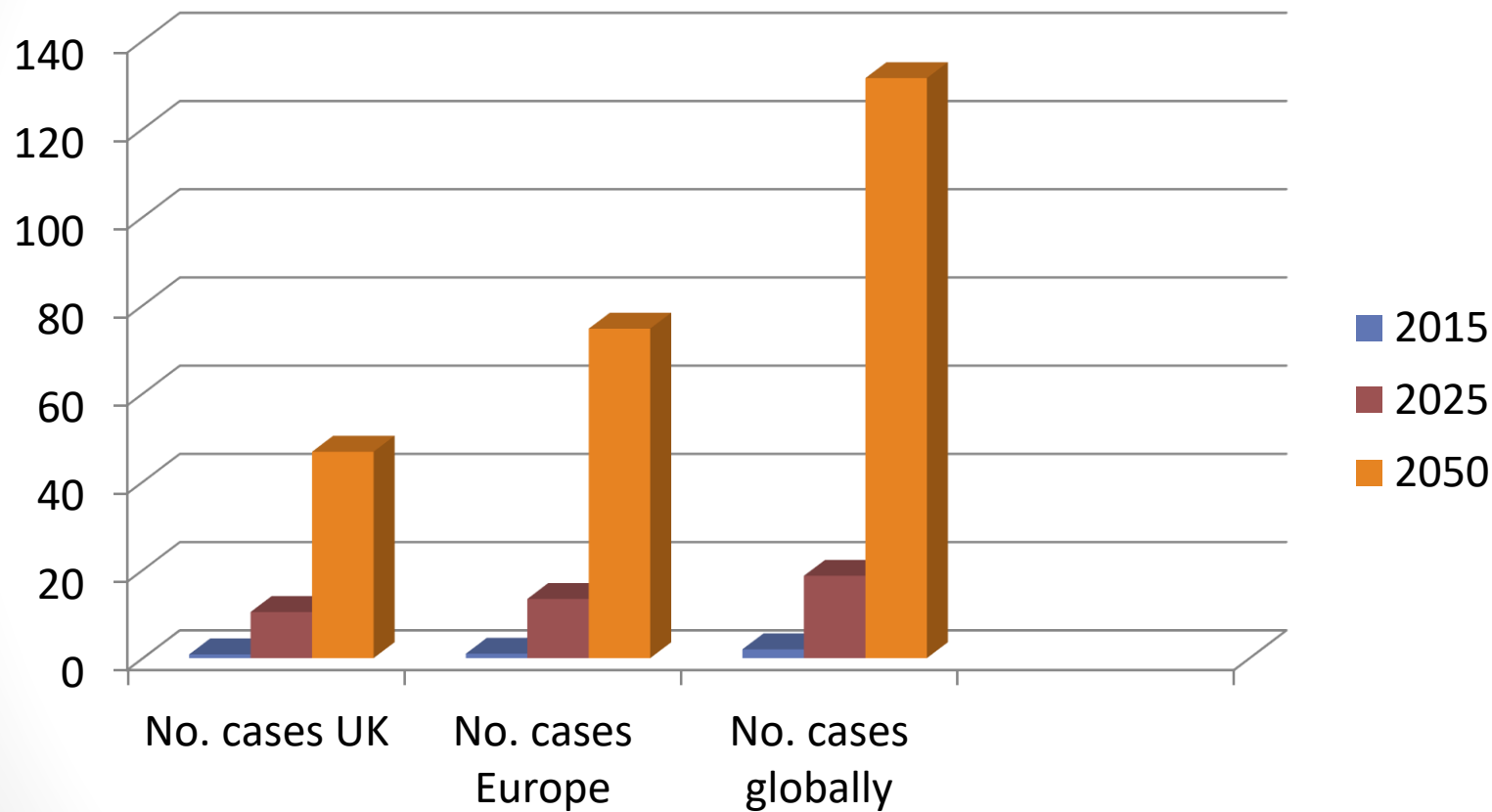
- Requirement for Universities – dementia training

## Tier 1

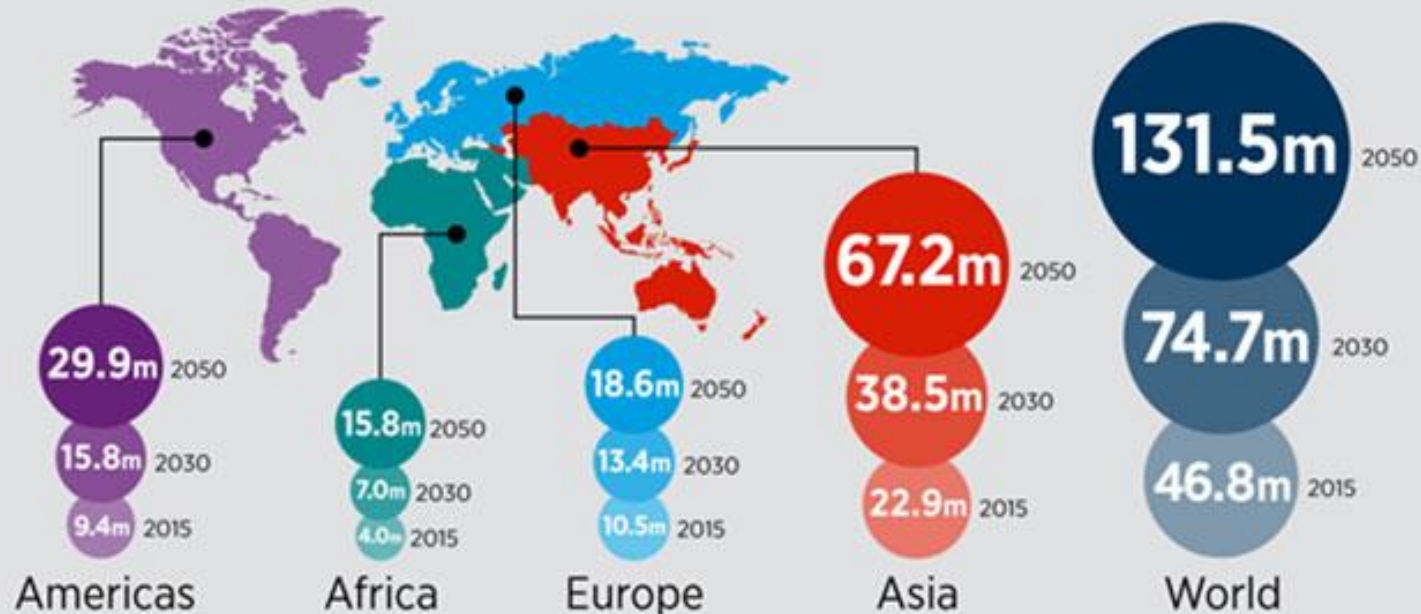
- Raising awareness – knowledge, skills and attitudes for those working in health care



# Estimated number of cases of dementia



## People living with **dementia** around the world



<http://pilatesfitness.co.uk/blog/?p=548>



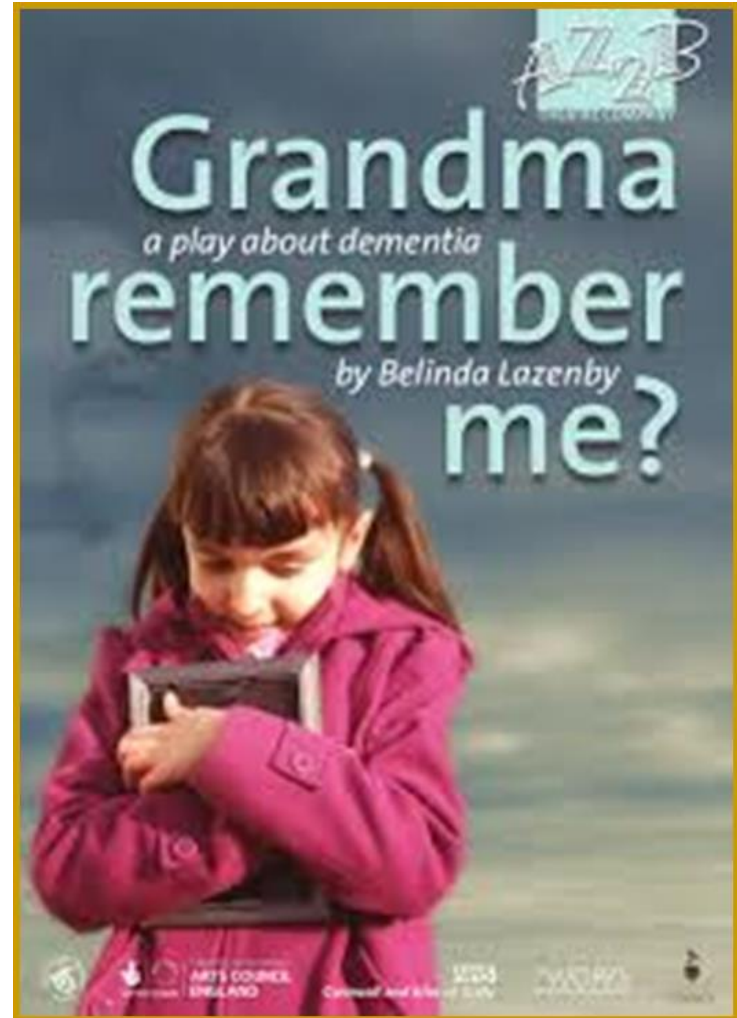


# Meeting the challenges?

- Formal teaching and learning OR
- A more engaging intervention through theatre?

# Adopting an arts-based pedagogy

- Arts-based education in medical education for non-scientific elements of the curriculum *De la Croix (2011)*
- Illness-related theatrical performances in context of health care education *Shapiro et al (2003) and O'Connor (2012)*
- Ethno dramas - allowing immersion into the lives of persons with dementia *Colantonio et al (2008)*



# Aims of the study



To establish health care students' perception of theatre as a pedagogy modality

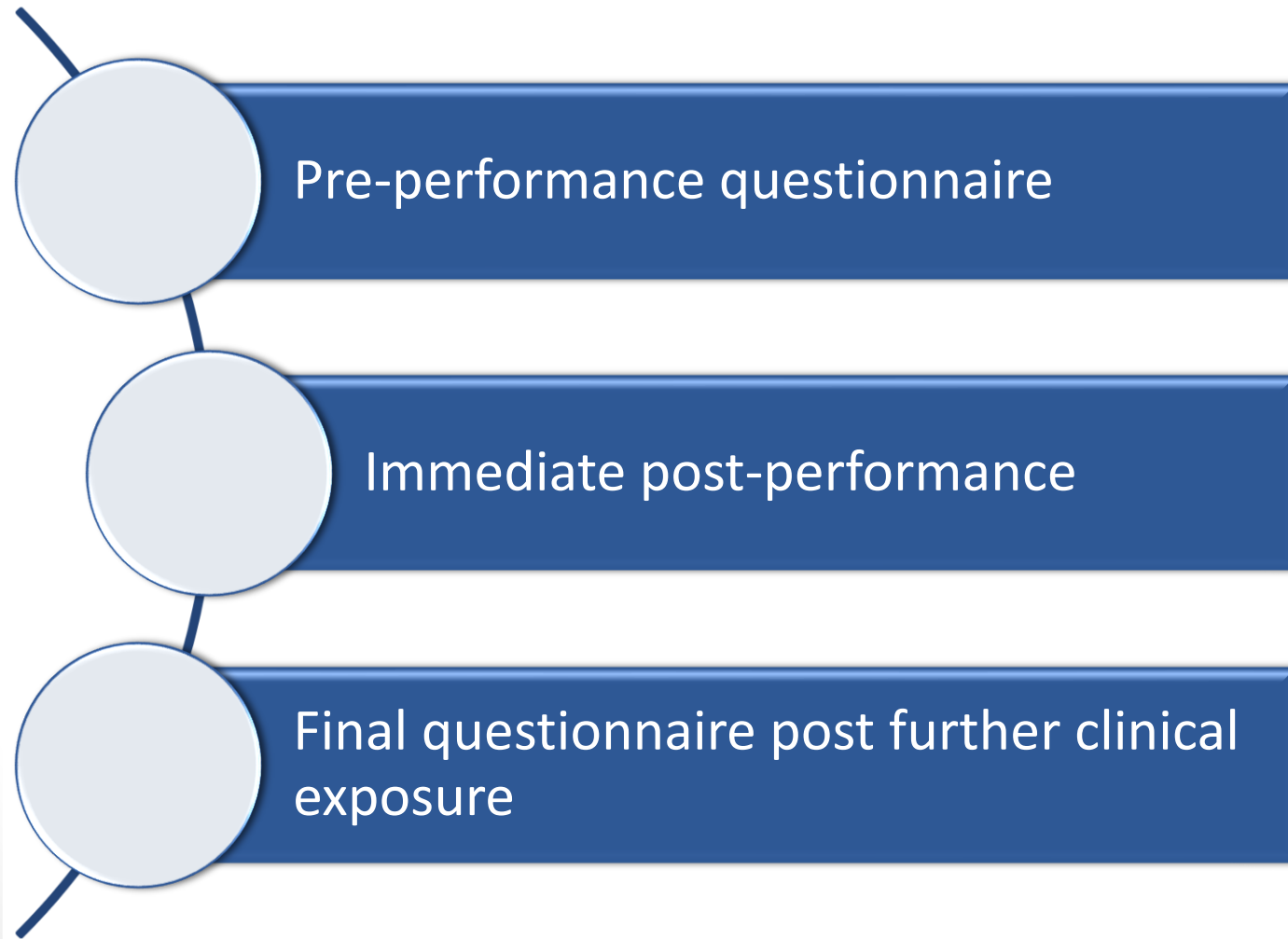


To ascertain health care students' perception of dementia



To assess the impact of the play on their perception of dementia and any potential change in behaviour towards people living with dementia directly after the performance and then following further clinical experience

# Study design: longitudinal





# Demographics of the participants

**1. Pre-performance questionnaire: 218**

85.5% females; 14.5% males



**2. Immediate Post-performance: 211**

83% females



**3. Longer term questionnaire:**

**63**

# Questionnaire 1: Pre-performance

- Participants' previous experience of dementia and in what capacity
- Phrases/myths commonly associated with dementia

# Myths/phrases – key words

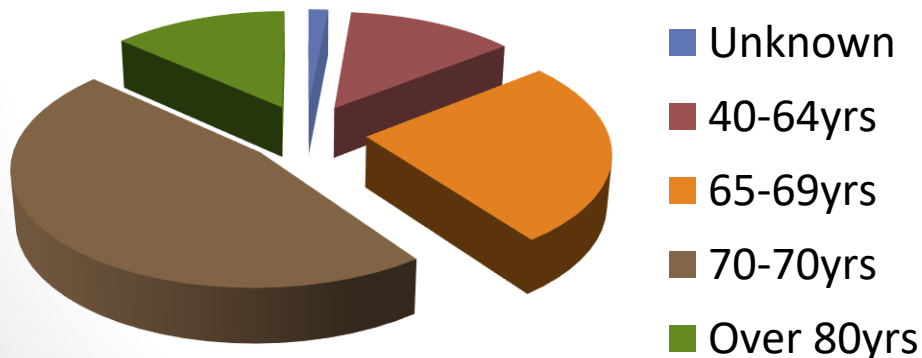
Forgetful	Alzheimer's	Memory loss	Things
Confused	Challenging	Upset	y
Emotional	Unpredictable	Repetitive	Loss of independence
Oblivion	Stigma	skills	Childlike
Progression	Lonely	hallucinations	Loss of identity
Depressed	Agitated	Sadness	Crazy
Nursing home		Burden	Scared
Misunderstanding	in sentence	Vascular dementia	Wanderer

**Negative**

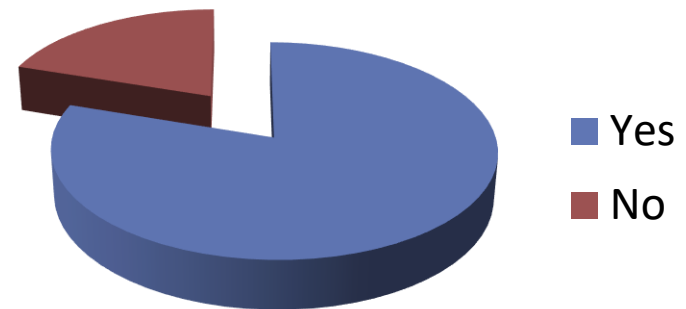
# Questionnaire 1: Pre-performance

- Participants' previous experience of dementia and the capacity and age range of those affected

Age category of person(s) affected by dementia



Previous experience of dementia



## Capacity

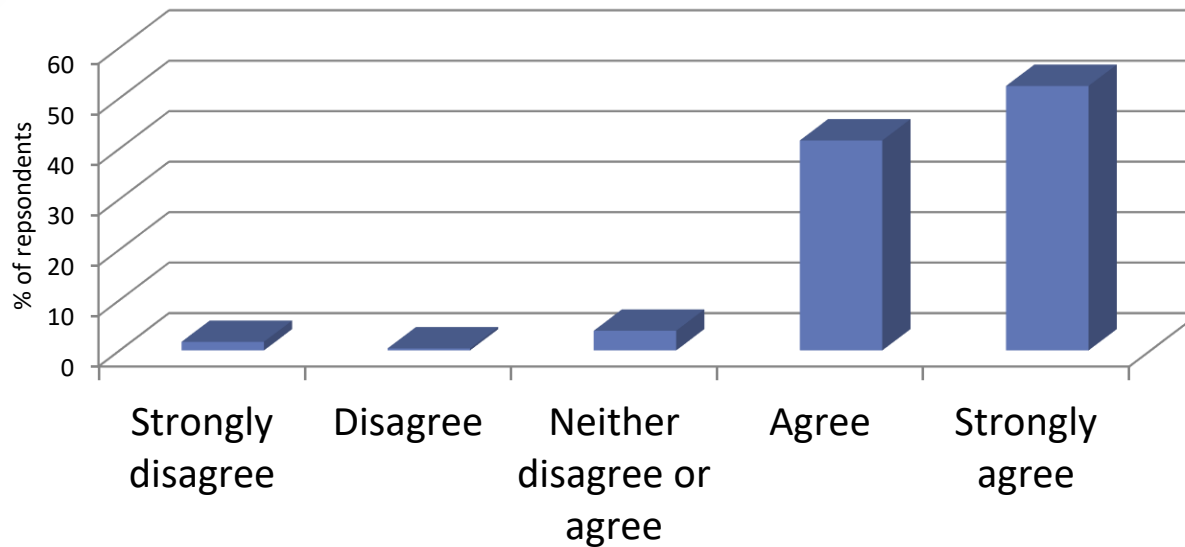
Family members; friends' families; clinical placement; as health care assistant



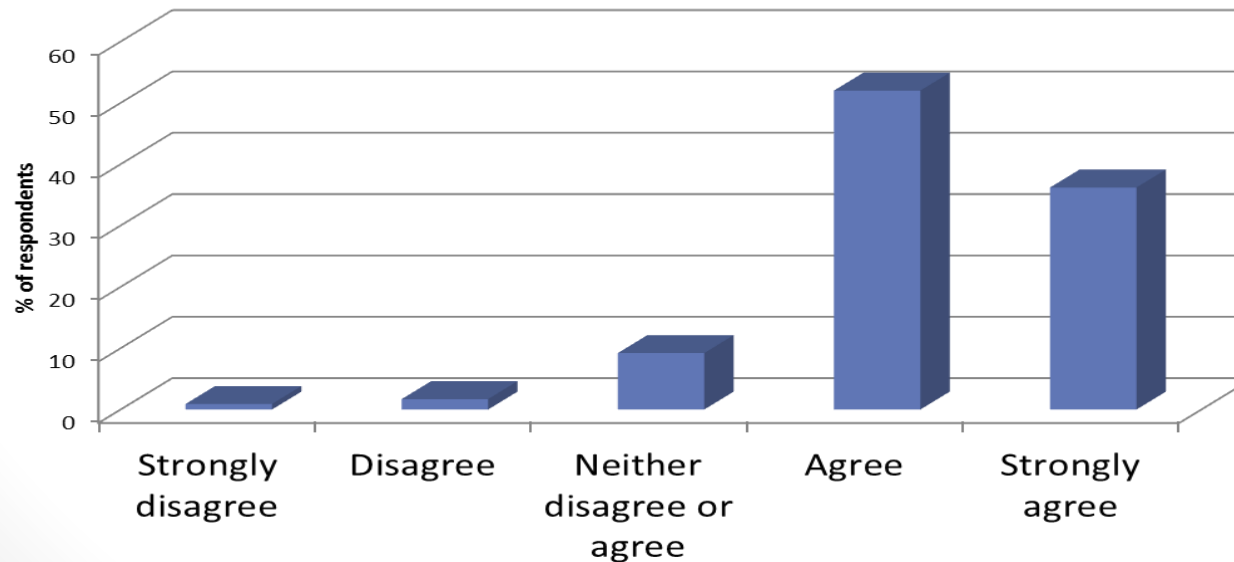
**Questionnaire 2: Post-performance**  
*Perceptions of the pedagogic approach*



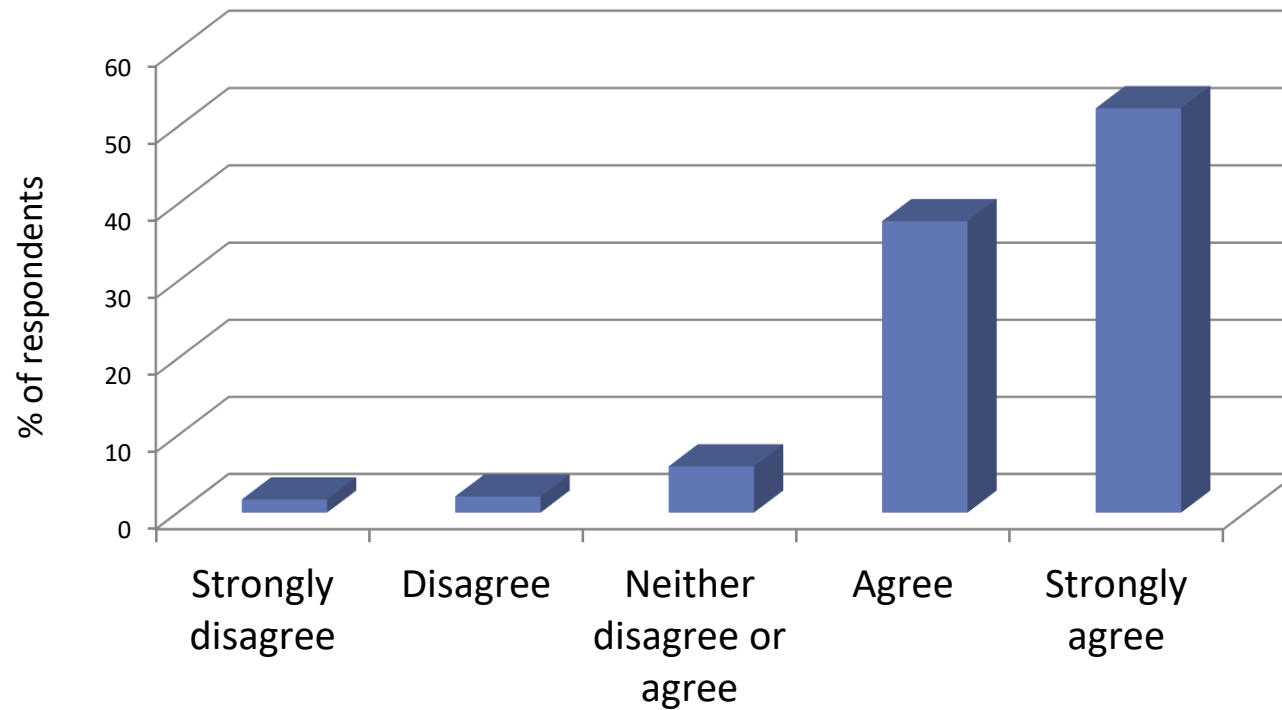
## The performance was stimulating



## The format of the training was a useful way of learning about dementia



## Recommend theatre for education

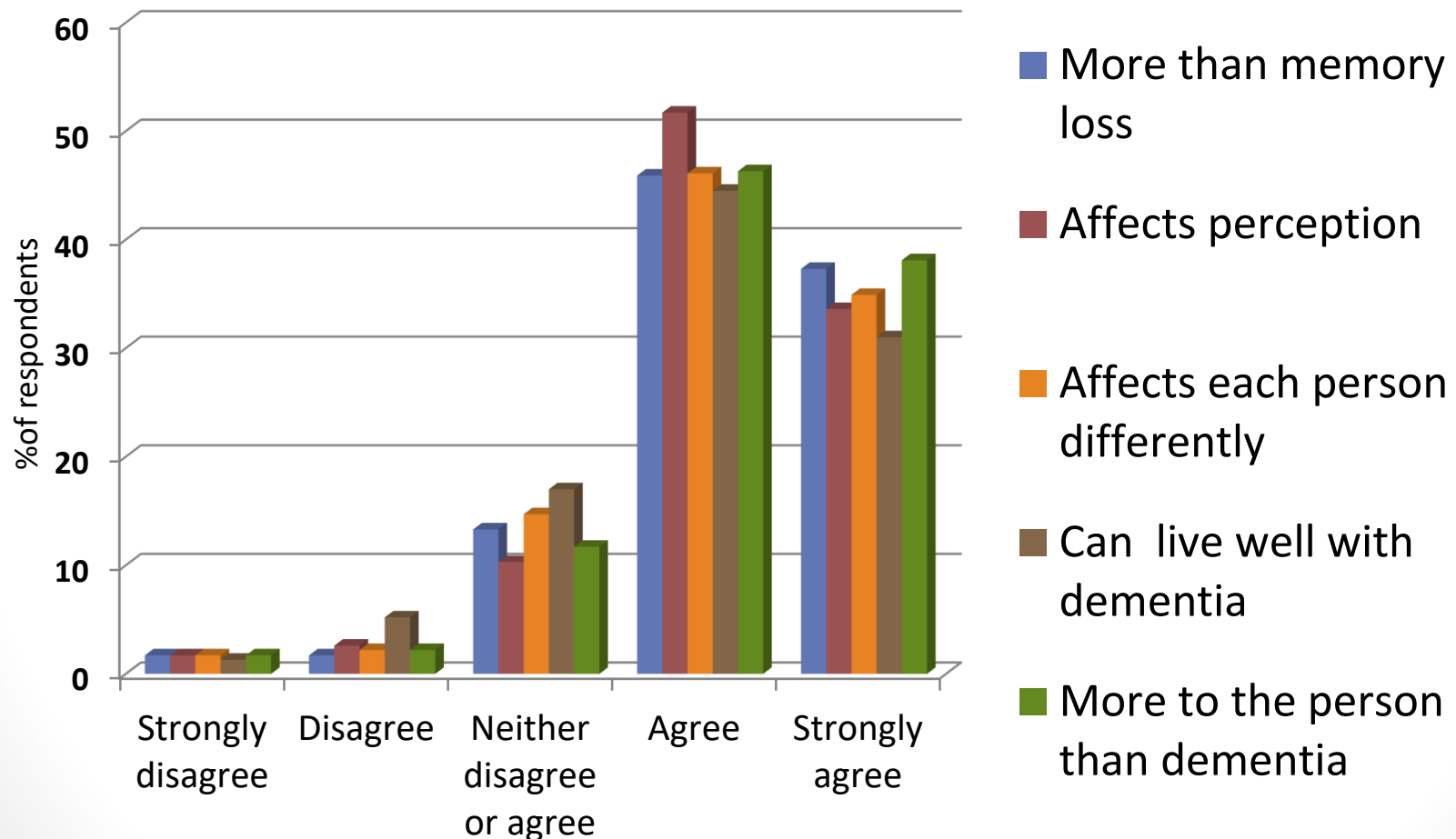




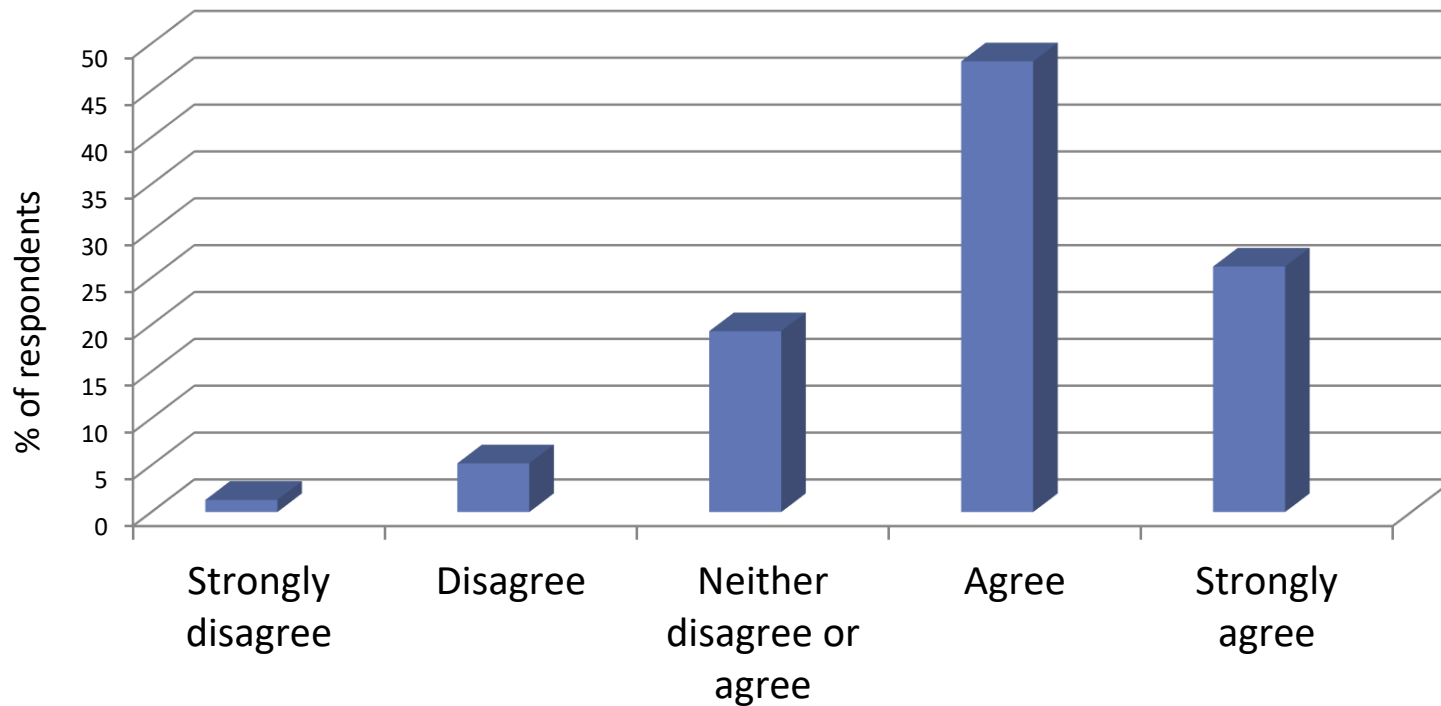
## Questionnaire 2: Post-performance

*Perceptions of  
dementia with  
regard to the value  
of the  
performance*

# Appreciation of the effects of dementia

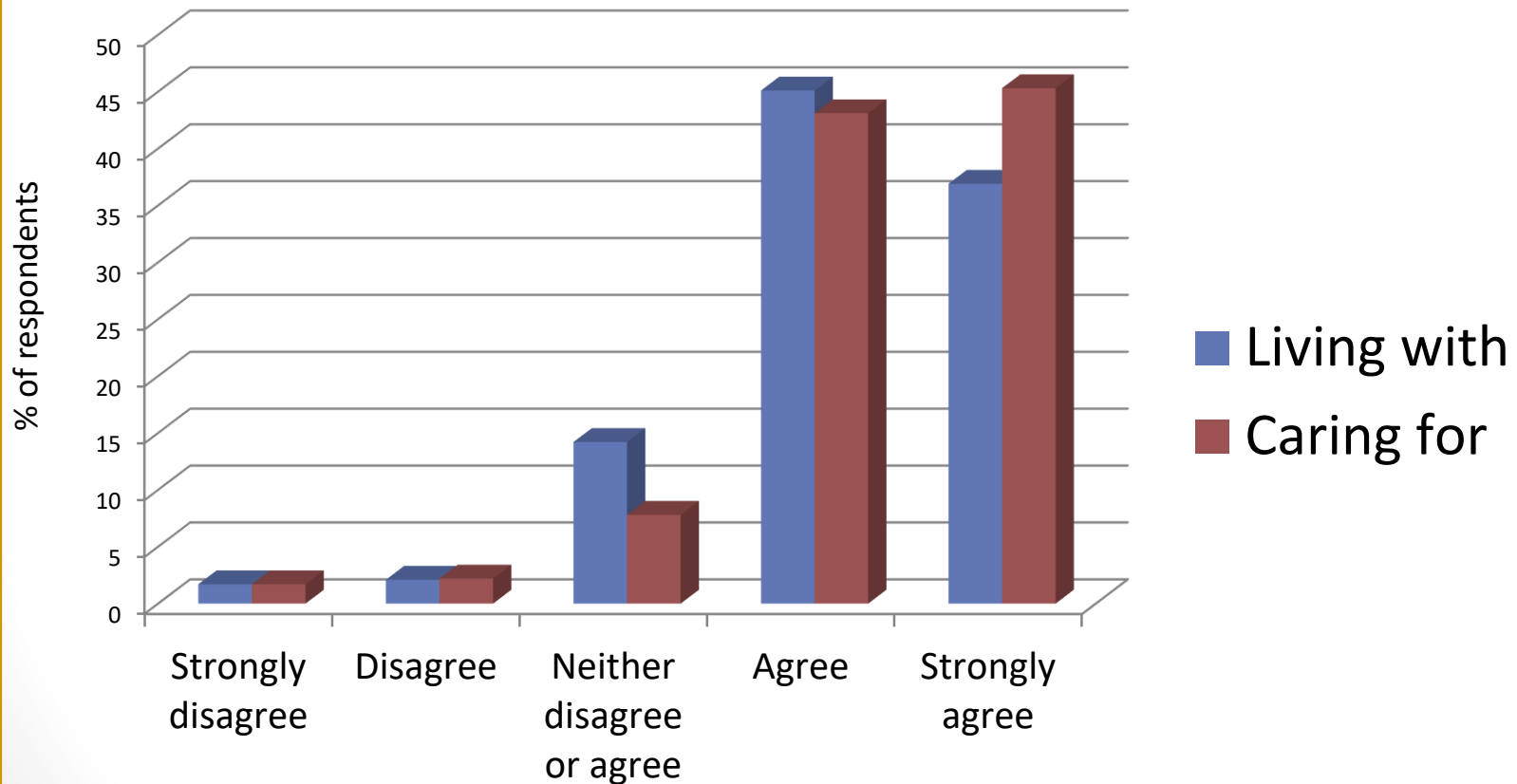


The performance was very challenging but portrayed a positive aspect

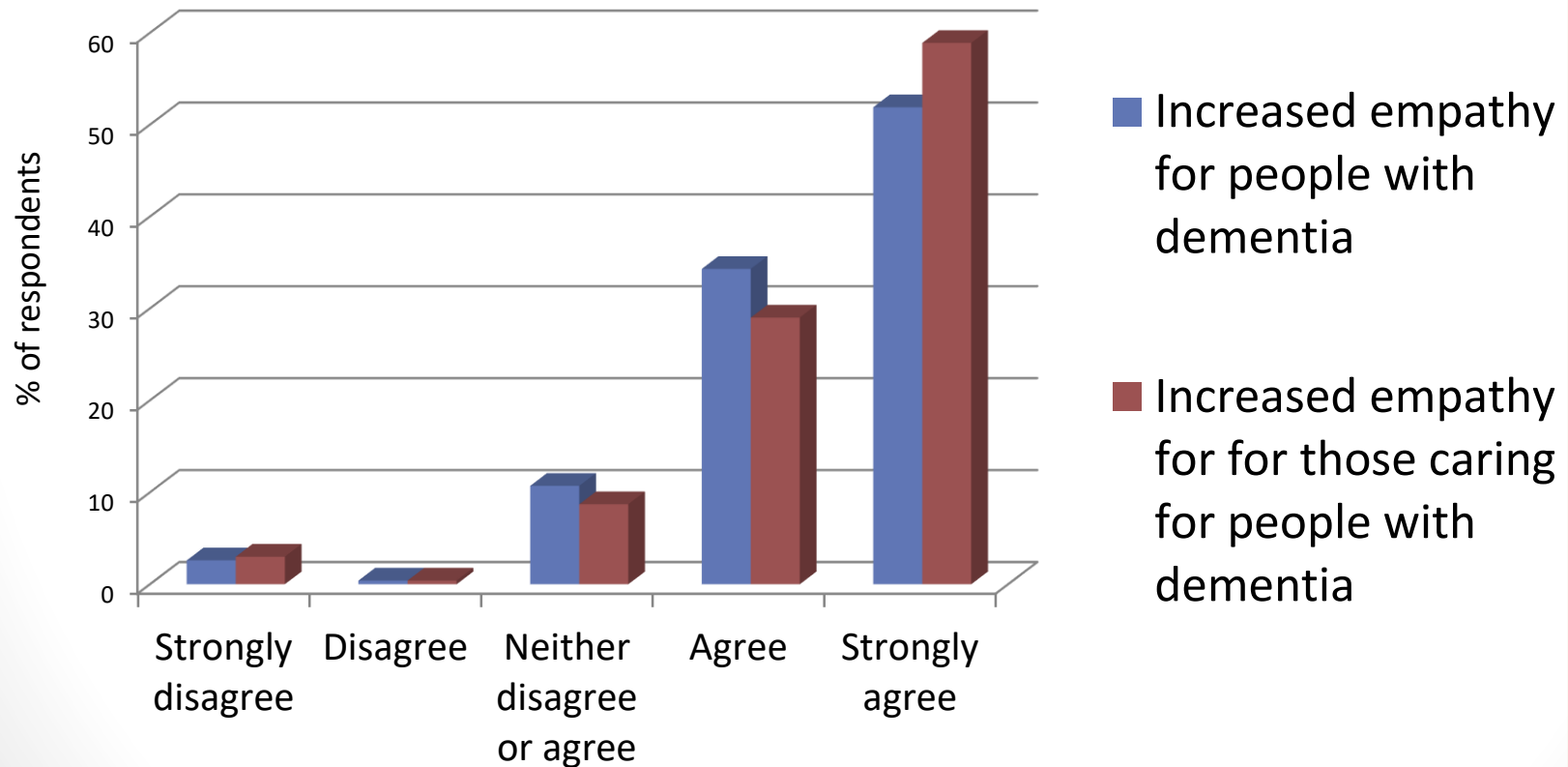




## Improved understanding of people living with and caring for people with dementia



## Understanding the need to be more empathetic towards people with dementia and for those caring for people with dementia

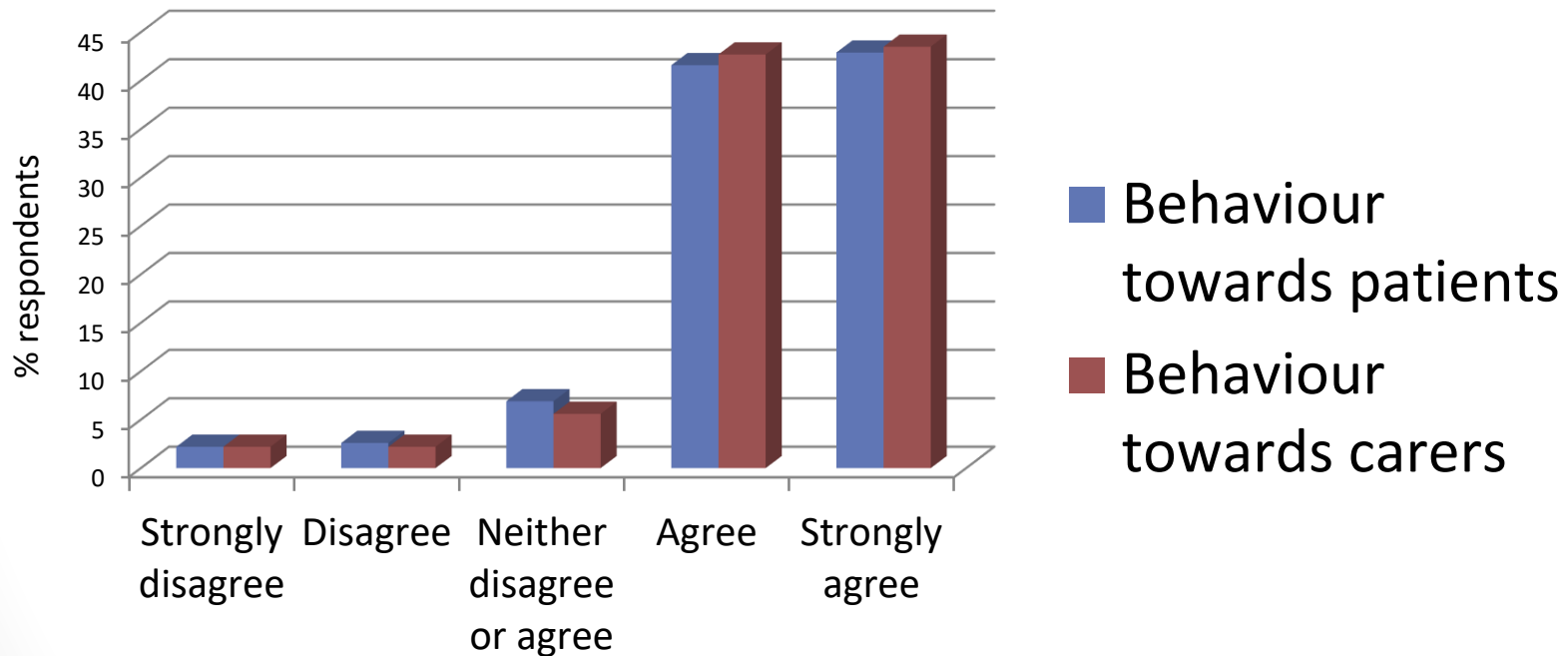




## Questionnaire 2: Post-performance

*Perceptions of  
dementia with  
regard to the  
potential impact of  
the performance  
on practice*

## Change in behaviour towards patients with dementia and towards carers of dementia people



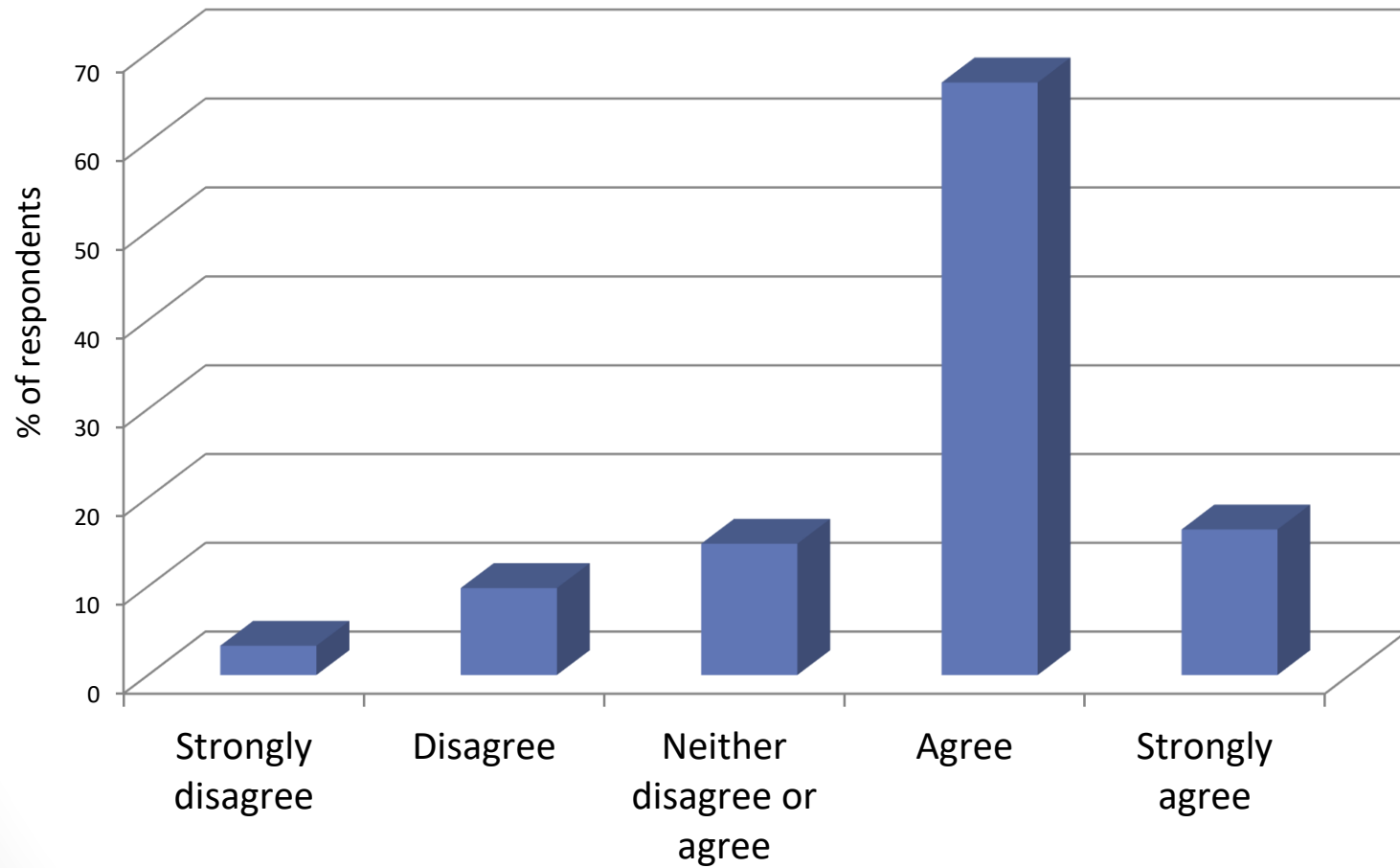


## Questionnaire 3: Post-performance

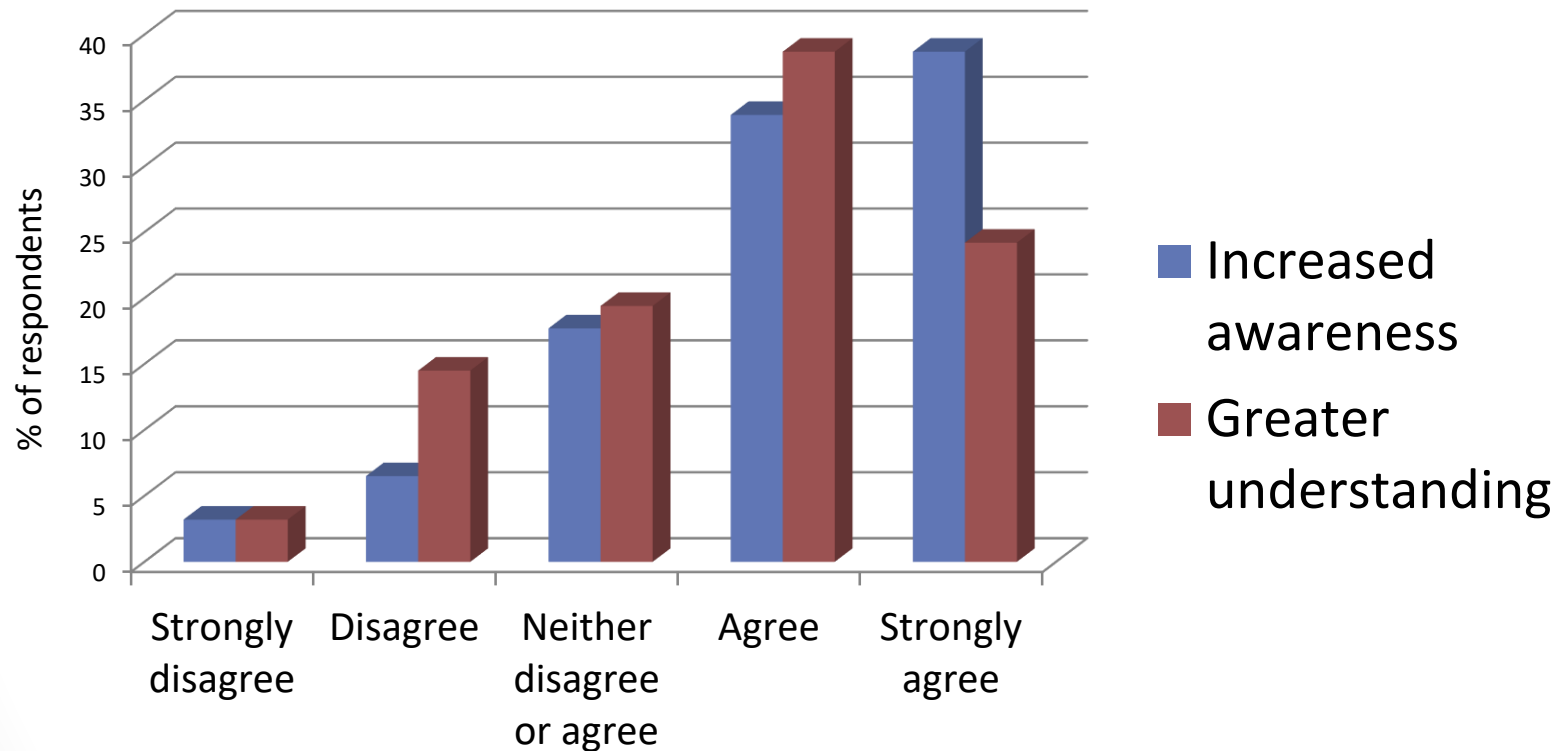
*Longer term  
impact of the  
performance*



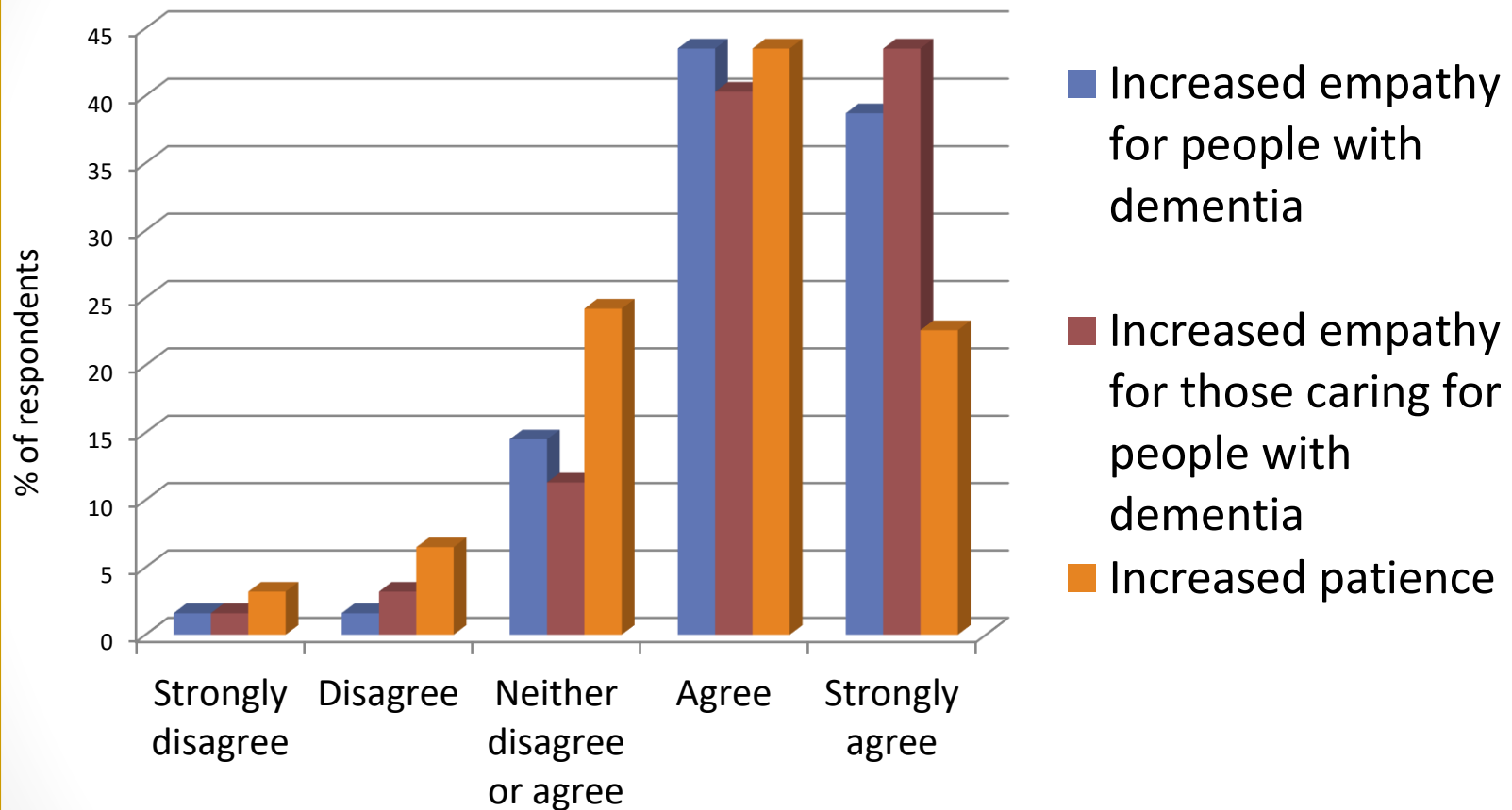
## Reflection on the experience



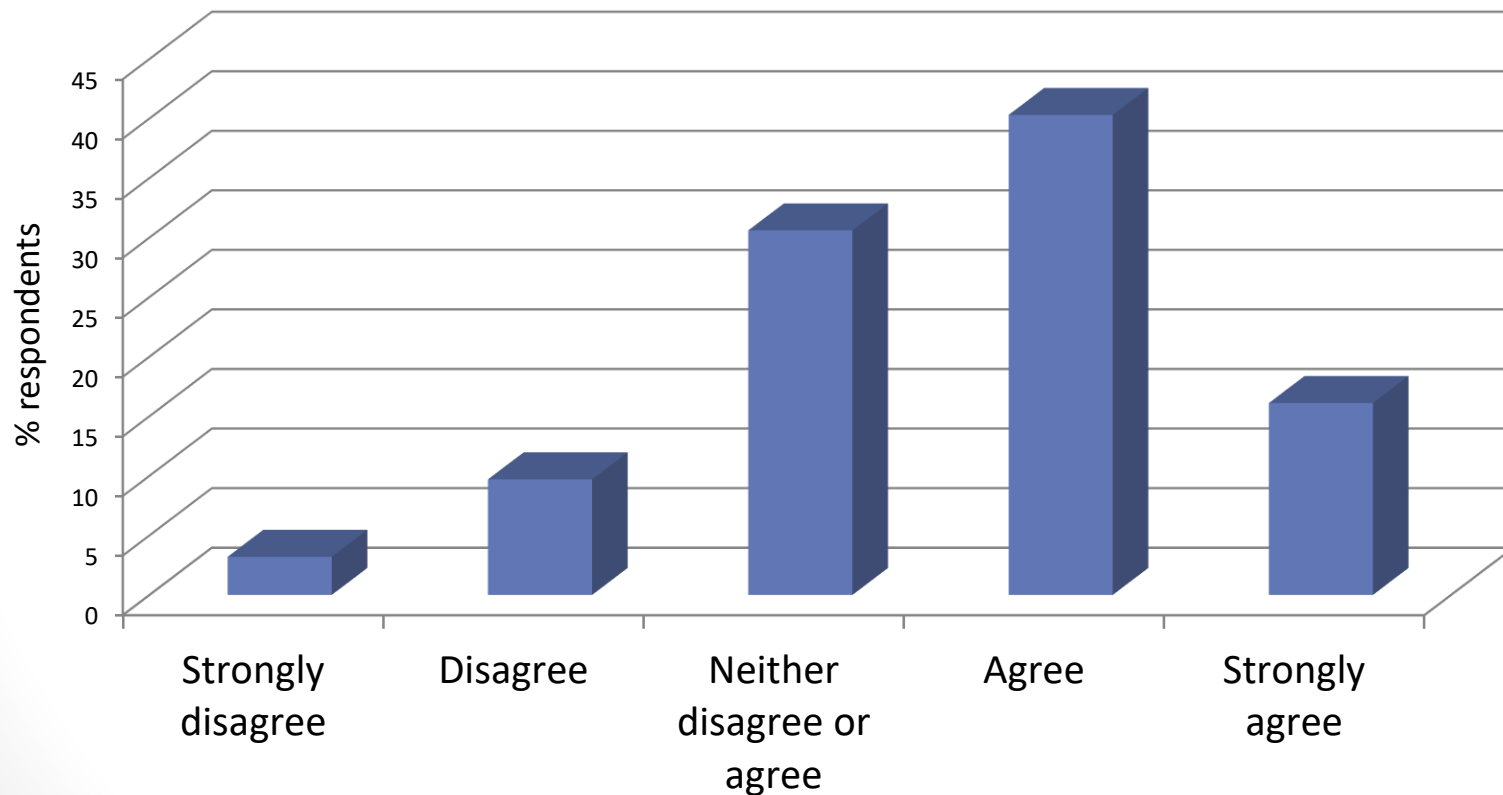
## Increased awareness and a greater understanding of dementia



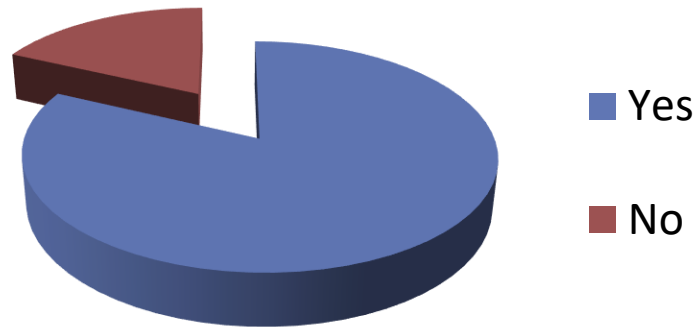
## Effect on empathy and patience



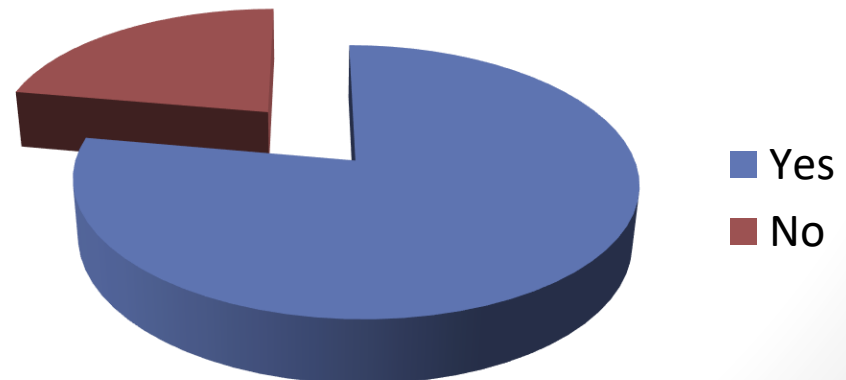
## Application of insights from the play to interactions with patients with dementia and carers and families



Would you recommend the continuation of inclusion of theatre in health care programmes?



Should theatre be used for dementia training for future cohorts of students?





# Conclusions

- Positive findings
  - Increase awareness of dementia
  - Method of delivery through theatre
- Effect of findings
  - Supports potential to use theatre as a teaching modality in future

# Recommendations

- Arts-based learning:
  - Provides an effective way for health care students to explore aspects of health care
  - Facilitates an understanding of the emotional factors
  - Facilitates an understanding of illness and suffering
- Recommended as a pedagogic modality
  - Visual impact suits the net generation learner
- Best delivered in the first year of health professional programmes



# References

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- Health Education England [www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/north-west/our-work/attracting-developing-our-workforce/dementia](http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/north-west/our-work/attracting-developing-our-workforce/dementia)
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- NOTE: Permission given by Belinda Lazenby, AZ2BTheatre Company for use of images